The Newberry Herald and News.

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THE STATE CAPITOL OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

FACTS ABOUT BUILDING NOW NEARING COMPLETION.

Will be Interesting to Many—When and How the Work Was Begun—The War Period—The Resumption of Operations.

(The State.)

The splendid granite edifice which is the official domicile of the State of South Carolina, after having been 30 years in building, is at last nearing completion. Designed originally to cost $5,000,000 and intended, as some of the political patriarchs of the State aver, to serve as the capitol of the Southern Confederacy, it is today but a semblance of the conception of John R. Niernsee, who designed it. As it stands, it has cost the State of South Carolina $2,500,000. It is intimately associated with many tragic incidents in the State's history, and has become already one of the historic structures of the country.

At the session of the general assembly of 1850, while the State was in the throes of the first great agitation of the secession question, which culminated in the affirmation of the right of a State to secede, the legislative committee on the State house reported that the State records were in danger of destruction by fire and recommended that a fireproof building be erected for their safe-keeping. In consequence of this report, the appropriation bill that year contained a clause authorizing the use of the proceeds of the sale of lots in the city of Columbia for this purpose. No bill authorizing the erection of a new State house was passed, though it is clear that it was the intention of the leaders at this time to provide for the erection of a creditable public building. Judge O'Neal gave the credit to Hon. Benjamin Hunt of "leading the legislature imperceptibly into the scheme of building a new State house."

The conerstone of a two story building was laid December 15, 1851. This building was erected on the square then occupied by the old State house, fronting on Main street, the old building then standing at the corner of Senate and Assembly streets. It was a modest structure, intended to serve as a wing of the projected capitol. It was about completed at a cost of $250,000 and some of the records had been removed to it in the summer of 1854, when the commissioners in charge noticed cracks in the door and window arches. These defects, becoming more pronounced, the commissioners employed John R. Niernsee, then residing in Baltimore, as consulting architect. Niernsee had designed the Smithsonian institute and many other famous buildings, and was one of the foremost architects of his time. Architect Niernsee absolutely condemned the structure, and under his advice, it was razed to the ground, only a part of the foundations being left, which now remain under the west end of the present capitol. It was then that Niernsee designed the structure which now stands, the general assembly giving sanction to the issue of bonds for the "continuation" of the construction of a new State capitol. The adjoining square was also purchased, and the building located upon its present site.

In anticipation of the approaching great conflict the work was feverishly pushed until the war practically stopped it. A tramway was constructed to the granite quarries on the river, and hundreds of laborers were employed quarrying and dressing the huge pieces of granite required. When the work of building was thus rudely stopped, the talented architect exchanged his drawing instruments for the sword and did valiant service in the army of the Southern Confederacy.

On that momentous day to the people of this State, February 15, 1865, when the army commanded by Gen. W. T. Sherman reached the heights across the Congaree river overlooking Columbia—at Casey's—Mayor Goodwin surrendered the city, as it was absolutely defenseless. Notwithstanding this defenseless condition the city was shelled and the new capitol, with its white walls completed to the freize line, was the mark of every gunner. Several shells entered the bare window openings and five struct the building, but made little impression upon its massive walls.

The old State house was one of the 1,400 buildings destroyed by Gen. Sherman's army, and the granite at the southeast corner of the new capitol was baked off by the fire which destroyed the old building. At the time there was a large quanity of dressed marble and other material for the building on the ground. The architect estimated the value of that destroyed by Gen. Sherman at $700,000, besides the mutilation of the beautiful marble in place on the front and rear portico which is still apparent. A mine was prepared under the building to completely destroy it, when a report reached the city that a wing of the army above Columbia had been attacked by Hampton's calvary. Gen. Sherman ordered the powder removed with the remark that it would be a useless waste of ammunition, and that he would "leave the people so ——poor that they would never complete it," hastening his departure from the city, then in smoking ruins.

Work continued in a desultory manner until 1890, when it was entirely discontinued, until the session of the general assembly of 1900, which appropriated $175,000 for the additions now being made, under plans of Architect Frank P. Milburn. A dome was adopted in lieu of the granite tower originally intended to surmount the structure.

The granite work upon the old building is pronounced by experts to be without exception the finest in the United States, not excepting the splendid buildings of the national government at Washington. The massive square pillars in the lower corridor are hewn from a single block of granite, and are finished in the best manner known to stone cutters. It was intended that the entablature of the front pediment should be cut from a single stone, which was actually quarried and on the ground at the close of the war, but was never dressed, and during the reconstruction period the legislature donated a portion of it for a monument to a negro politician, when it was cut in two. This is said to have been the largest piece of granite at that time ever quarried in the United States. During the disgraceful period which followed the war, when the people of the north were endeavoring to secure the political rights of the negro by overriding those of the intelligent and property owning people of the State, all material on the ground small enough to be moved was "appropriated," with all other property of the State, by the scalawags and thieves then in control of the government. One hundred thousand dollars was expended in "furnishing" the State house with desks, etc, that would have been exhorbitant at one quarter of the prices charged, and included such items as a silver plated water pitcher for the Governor's office at $1,500 cuspidors at $18 each, and other articles in proportion. A majority of the members of the house of representatives could not write their names, while a majority of the members of the senate were in the habit of settling their personal accounts by orders upon the contingent fund of the senate. Included in necessary "supplies" for the general assembly were enormous quantities of champaigne and whiskey, which was freely dispensed in the little room on the right as you enter the gallerry of the senate. It was in this room that John J. Patterson, elected to the United States senate, declared that there would be "five years more of good stealing in South Carolina," which became a Democratic slogan.

The beautiful Corinthian columns, cut from a single piece of granite, are noteworthy specimens of the stone cutters' skill, while the massive foundations of cut stone containing many inverted arches to distribute the weight, are marvels to modern buildings.

The building was first occupied by the general assembly of 1869. During the exciting events which followed the campaign of 1876, it was literally bombarded by the opposing political parties, and two bodies each claiming to be the legally elected house of representatives and each with its complement of officers, meeting in the same room—the hall of the house of representatives—a pitched battle was iminent, until the recognition of the democratic speaker by former Republicans gave a decisive turn to affairs.

M'LAURIN AND RANDALL.

The Later Was the Regular "Commercial Democrat."

Senator McLaurin's reference to Samuel J. Randall on Monday was infelicitous. It showed that he was not thoroughly familiar with the record of the great Pennsylvanian. He should repair the deficiency, for, in a way, he is a disciple of Mr. Randall, and is now meeting with some of Mr. Randall's experience.

Mr. Randall was what is now called a "Commercial Democrat," and the leader of that wing of his party which did not flop at the call of free trade. He believed in the policy of building up a great industrial America, and therefore addressed himself to public questions more from a business than a sentimental viewpoint. But he paid dearly for his sagacity and his courage. As bitter war was made on him as has ever been made on the South Carolina senator. He was denounced as a Republican in disguise, and all but read out of the party. He was overwhelming defeated for the speakership of the forty-eighth congress, and every effort was made to prevent his appointment as chairman of the commitee on appropriations. But Mr. Carlisle, his successful competitor in the speakership race, with manly resolution refused to inflict the indignity.

The South in particular turned against Mr. Randall. She owed him much. He had defeated the first measure known as the force, bill and had always urged liberal protection for her industries. But this was ignored. South Carolina was willing to accept protection for her rice, Louisiana for her sugar, Georgia for her then rising cotton manufacturing, Alabama for her iron industry, and the Virginias and Tennessee for their coal, but they voted against the man who stood, both by performances and professions, for their material prosperity, and assisted in his humiliation as a party leader.

When Mr. Cleveland came in he joined in the crusade. The patronage of Pennsylvania was so distributed as to render Mr. Randall powerless at home. Many men whom he had made politically were tolled away from him, and he stood almost alone. But he never compromised an inch of his principles nor bowed the knee to anybody.

Mr. Randall's triumph came, but not until he had gone to his honored grave. When the men who had denounced and misused him at last won a national election on their cry of free trade, they found themselves unable to keep their flamboyant campaign promises, and turned to protection in a futile effort to save themselves. Well would it have been for them and for the country if they had been able to command in their then desperate straits the counsel of this man they had in his life rejected. They might, with his aid, have applied in some business-like fashion the principles of protection to their task, and saved the country hundreds of millions of dollars.

Mr. McLaurin may not secure a second term in the senate, but he can do more than that, and he is in a fair way of doing it. He can deserve a second term, and can afford then to leave the rest to fate and the future.—Washington Star.

Sell the average man grief with a label of joy on it and he'd be just as happy as if he got the real thing.

THE FIENDISH MESSACRE OF THE HAMPTON FAMILY.

A Thrilling Story of the War of the Revolution—Gen. Wade Hampton's Aged Grandsire Was Slain by the Hand He Grasped in Friendship—A boy's Experience.

[The State.]

Stories of the Hampton family are always read with pleasure, for this family of unswerving patrotism has been closely identified with the most stirring events in State history since the beginning of the struggle for liberty. As he is in receipt of numerous requests for information as to his family, Gen. Hampton has consented to let the appended sketch be republished. It is the original manuscript of the late Gov. Perry and was first published in June, 1843, in "Magnolia." Following is the story under the caption:

"REVOLUTIONARY INCIDENTS—THE HAMPTON FAMILY."

Anthony Hampton, the father of Gen. Wade Hampton, was among the first emigrants from Virginia to the upper part of South Carolina. He settled with his family on Tiger river in the district of Spartanburg. In 1775 a war with the mother country, as England was then called, because inevitable, and it was a matter of the highest importance to the inhabitants of the frontiers of Carolina to secure a peace with the Cherokee Indians.

To effect this the chiefs of that war-like and powerful tribe were invited to a "Big Talk" at some convenient town in their nation.

Edward and Preston Hampton, the sons of Anthony Hampton, were delegated by their friends and neighbors to meet the Indians at this conference, and endeavored to persuade them, if possible, to remain neutral in the approaching struggle. But the British emissaries had already engaged the Cherokee warriors to make an incursion into the settlements in the upper part of the State, at the same time that the English fleet under Henry Clinton and Peter Parker was to attact Charleston. It is well-known in history that these movements were simultaneous.

The young Hamptons had just returned from this talk with the Indians when a large number of their warriors commenced their work of death and destruction upon the inhabitants of Greenville and Spartanburg. After killing the Hite family in Europe, they proceded to Mr. Hampton's where they found the old gentleman, his lady, their son Preston Hampton, a lad by the name of John Bynum, and an infant child of Mr. James Harrison. They approached the house from every direction in order to prevent any of its inmates from escaping their inhuman carnage. Some of these Indians were known to both Preston Hampton and his father, and having received no information of their visit was at first supposed to be a friendly one. They met cordilly and old Mr. Hampton was in the act of shaking hands with one of the chiefs when he saw a gun fire and his son Preston fall to the ground.

This was a signal for an indiscriminate murder. The very hand which Mr. Hampton had, but a moment before grasped in friendship, now sent a tomihawk into his skull. His wife was soon dispatched in the same manner. The infant son of Mr. Hampton was dashed against the wall of the house which it besprinkled with its blood and brains. John Bynum, the lad already mentioned stood perfectly astounded amidst this murder and carnage, having lost all presence of mind and making no effort to escape. At length an Indian warrior raised his hand to dispatch the youth also, when the blow was arrested by the hand of the chief, he took the lad under his protection.

Mrs. Harrison, who was the daughter of Mr. Hampton, had gone to a neighbor's house, and on her return saw her father's house in flames, the Indians standing around it exulting with fiendish malignity. the mangled bodies of her father, mother, brother and son lying scattered to and fro in the yard. She was going to rush forward, in the frenzy of the moment, to make another victim, when she was restrained by her husband and forced in another direction. They sought concealment in a swamp and remained there undiscovered untill the savages left the place.

The lad who was rescued by the chief was taken by the Indians to their nation, and remained with them untill the treaty of 1777 when the district of Pendleton and Greenville were ceded to the whites. One article of this agreement was that the Cherokees should surrender to the commissioners all their prisoners and children taken from the homes of inhabitants along the frontiers.

Among those who were thus surrendered was John Bynum. He had, however, been so long with the Indians that it was with reluctance he was persuaded to leave them.

Shortly after this massacre a large body of the South Carolina militia under the command of Col. Williams marched into the Cherokee country burnt and destroyed a great many of their towns and settlements. Henry Hampton, a son of Anthony Hampton, commanded this body of malitia and killed with his own hand an Indian warrior attired in Preston Hampton's coat which was immediately recognized as the one in which his brother was murdered.

Edward Hampton at the time of the murder of his father and family was on a visit with his wife to her father, Bayliss Earle, living on the head waters of Pacolette, and by this means escaped the fate which he would otherwise have shared with his family.

He afterwards became a most active partisan in the cause of his country and was ultimately killed by the "bloody scout" in the bosom of his family.

James Harrison, with the citizens generally of that part of the country, sought protection in Prince's Fort, where he remained until offered an opportunity of sending his family into Virginia. He then devoted his own personal services exclusively to his country and was in the battles of Blackstocks, Cowpens and Eutaw. Gen. Wade Hampton was, it is believed, in North Carolina when his father and family were murdered in Spartanburg. His services in the War of the Revolution are too well known to be mentioned in sketches of this character. His extraordinary gallantry at the head of a regiment of cavalry in the battle of Eutaw, assisted greatly in the achievments of that day and his noble daring and active exertions everywhere contributed much to the success of the American arms in South Carolina.

ROOSEVELT AND THE SOUTH

The President Consults the State Delegations as to Appointments and Tries to Harmonize the Republican Factions.

Washington, Dec. 16.—President Roosevelt is adopting the plan of getting information from Democratic Senators and Representatives regarding applicants for office in the South. Today, by appointment, he consulted with Senators Foster and McEnery, and Representatives Broussard, of Louisiana, regarding Louisiana appointments. He had a list of about fifty applicants for places, from collector of the port of New Orleans down to minor offices, concerning whom he requested information. The President also consulted Representatives Clayton, Thompson and Wiley, of Alabama, about some appointments in that State. It is understood that the President is disposed to reappoint Messrs Vaughn, Bryan and Bingham, respectively, district attorney and marshal of the Middle district, and collector of internal revenue. He is very desirous of harmonizing the existing Republican factions in the State.

MAY GET SOME BACK.

Banks Enjoined From Paying Out Cherry Tree Money.

Charlotte, N. C., Dec. 16.—Judge Fred Moore of the superior court has issued an order restraining the banks of Rutherfordton, which hold money belonging to the Amos Owen Cherry Tree Company, or its former owners, from paying out same. This writ was served today. The order is made returnable Jan. 1 before Judge Council at Newton and as obtained by Eaves & Rucker, attorneys.

The action is probably taken to secure payment of amounts due agents, although there is no specific information on that point. No arrests, it is said, have yet been made, and it is probable that the promoters have left the State.

Charlotte, N. C., Dec. 16. The Amos Owens Cherry Tree Company will formally dissolve tomorrow.

The restraining order to hold the company's bank accounts was secured by attorneys for W. H. Hester, the man to whom the former proprietors are said to have unloaded just before leaving the State to avoid arrest on the federal court warrant.

Hester claims to have lost money by the deal and is making an effort to reimburse himself. All the parties indicted have fled, it is said

SKETCHES OF ARMY LIFE.

Interesting Incidents of the Civil War Related by "X Con-Fed" a Member of Third S. C. Regiment.

The reading of history sometimes gives us an erroneous opinion of the facts of the event. Gen. T. J. Jackson is given the entire credit of capturing Harper's Ferry. It is true Gen Jackson's troops swept down the valley between the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, but the key to Harper's Ferry was Maryland Hights. Gen. Kershaw's Brigade of South Carolinians crossed the Potomac river at Leesberg. Here an amusing incident occured. A member of Co. B. 3d S. C. Regiment gave out between Leesberg and the River. He went to the surgeon of the regiment and asked for permission to ride in the ambulance. The surgeon told him to discard some of the plunder he was carrying, then if he could not keep up he would let him ride. He spoke disrespectfully to the surgeon. He was reported to the Colonel and put under arrest. When the Potomac was reached he refused to cross. Col. Nance sent for the writer and told him to get a guard of two men and put the soldier across the Potomac. The soldier said he had gone out of the Union and would never go back again. With a guard on each side and a bayonet in the rear he was marched back into the United States. We went to Frederick City and from that place we made our way across the mountains towards Harper's Ferry. We made our way to the top of the mountain some distance from Harpers Ferry. We camped for the night and made the attack on the Federal troops in the morning. This was on the 13th or 14th day of September, 1862. Gen. Kershaw's whole brigade was present but the 3d S. C. regiment led the advance squarely in front and drew the Federal troops from their position and from the mountain. The 3d regiment lost 12 men killed in this charge. The other regiments of the brigade did not loose a man in fact, that was all the men killed on our side in the capture of the place. Gen. Cobb had a severe fight with the enemy some miles in our rear, keeping the Federals from pressing us. We got some cannon on the mountain top by hard work, and with them we had Harper's Ferry under our thumb, and Col. Miles surrendered to Gen. Jackson. Col. Rutherford was left at a house in the valley sick. His negro servant was left with him. He was captured by the Federals and carried to Baltimore. His negro servant went on the same train but did not pay any attention to Col. Rutherford. Col. Rutherford was soon exchanged. The servant asked for permission to go South on the same boat with his master. He had told them a good story about being free, &c., and that he had a wife down South. He was given permission to go South. He paid no attention to Col. Rutherford until the prisoners were landed at City Point. When they were turned over to the Confederate authorities, the negro went up to Col. Rutherford and told him here was his servant. Ex. Con. Fed.

It takes cold, hard nerve for a man to sit up in his club and brag that his wife is president of a club with some Greek or Latin name.

BOILERS BURST AND WRECK MILL.

MANY LIVES LOST AND TWO PLANTS DESTROYED.

Accident in a Steel Mill at Pittsburg—Five Dead and Twelve Injured Already Removed and More Thought to be in Debris—Two Boilers Soared Through Air.

Pittsburg, Dec. 20.—The Black Diamond Steel Works of Park Brothers, Thirtieth street, was the scene this morning of an awful accident, in which at least five workmen lost their lives and twelve were injured.

Reports are freely circulated that from ten to thirty were killed, and it will not be known how many are dead until the wreckage is cleared away.

It was about 4.15 o'clock as the night crew was about to turn over the mill to the day force, that four boilers in the ten-inch bar mill exploded with terific force. The mill was completely wrecked and debris was piled from fifty to seventy-five feet high. The boiler works of James McNeil, adjoining, were also destroyed.

A force of men went to work as quickly as possible after the explosion, searching for bodies. Five dead and twelve injured have already been removed. The dead are not identified and the bodies are at the morgue.

There was not a straight piece of iron or steel left in the entire building. The mill has sixty men on each turn, and it is thought both crews were in the plant at the time of the explosion.

One of the boilers went clean through Park Brothers' mill and crushed into the McNeill plant, almost demolishing it. The only man at work in the McNeilll was Rudolph Korff, night watchman. He was knocked down by the force of the explosion.

Another boiler went through the air across Thirtieth street and crashed into the residence of Robert Prince. It went through the front wall and fell into the cellar, completely wrecking the house. Prince and his family were asleep at the time and had to rush to the street in their night clothing. The other two boilers were blown to pieces, and it was these that caused the complete destruction of the mill.

About the Word Christmas.

Mrs. Mary Trammell Scott has the following timely suggestion as to the popular manner of writing Christmas:

"Let no thoughtless paragrapher write it Xmas," she protests, and continuing say's further:

"I've often been tempted to make this abbreviation, but have always been prevented by a feeling that has never been analyzed until now. The custom of making this sign for Christmas is becoming so universal that it is destroying the beauty of one of the most beautiful words in written English. Even on calendars and dainty Christmas cards we see this grotesque word. The day that celebrates the dearest, tenderest and most important event of all history is year after year being desecrated in the way it is being spent and now must we have the word itself shorn of its beauty by a lazy abbreviation.

"The cross is a symbol of humanity, but not of the living Christ whom Christians commemorate. Christmas is not a cross festival nor cross mass, but a 'church festival,' according to Webster; a loving tribute paid to One who bore but laid aside the cross for a crown.

"Writers who would never think of marring their manuscript with a slang expression do not hesitate to take an unlawful liberty with this word. No lexicographer has licensed it yet, so far as I know; then, according to good English, it is incorrect, and when we stop to think about it, it is irreverent.

"We may not be able to stop the boisterous, unchristian manner of some in their attempt to celebrate the day, but we can check this piece of thoughtlessness and preserve the word Christmas sacred.—Atlanta Journal.